

LEGISLATIVE BILL 48

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2003

Introduced by Chambers, 11

AN ACT relating to the Rural Development Commission; to amend sections 81-3602 and 81-3606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to revive sections 81-3601 to 81-3609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to revive provisions relating to the commission; to change provisions relating to the membership of the commission and funds available to the commission; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 81-3602, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-3602. (1) (a) The Rural Development Commission shall consist of ~~nineteen~~ members who represent a wide range of rural Nebraska interests.

(b) ~~The Governor with the advice of the commission shall appoint the members of the commission~~ four members to the commission. The Governor shall appoint a representative of his or her office and one representative from each of the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

(c) The Speaker of the Legislature shall appoint one member of the Legislature to the commission.

(d) Other members shall be appointed by the Governor to represent federal agencies, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, regional economic development organizations, the private sector, postsecondary education, and youth.

(e) ~~The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the commission shall be elected by a majority of the voting members of the commission at the first commission meeting in odd-numbered years and shall each serve a two-year term as chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively. The appointments may include representation from nonmetropolitan Nebraska residents, business, agriculture, nonprofit organizations, federal, state, and local government, Nebraska's Indian tribes, and other groups as necessary to conduct the business of the commission. The Governor and commission shall consider and attempt to balance representation based on political party affiliation, gender, race, age, community size, and the different geographical areas of Nebraska when making appointments.~~

~~(2) The terms of the initial members shall be as follows: Six members shall serve for one-year terms, seven members shall serve for two-year terms, including the members designated as chairperson and vice-chairperson, and four members shall serve for three-year terms. Thereafter members shall serve for terms of two years. The Governor shall appoint two ex officio, nonvoting members from the Legislature for two-year terms. Members may not serve more than three consecutive two-year terms, except that a member who serves a term as chairperson or vice-chairperson may serve a total of four consecutive two-year terms.~~

~~(3) (2) The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the voting members. The chairperson shall call such meetings as he or she determines necessary to fulfill the duties of the commission. A quorum shall be one-half of the voting members.~~

~~(4) (3) The members of the commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 and pursuant to policies of the commission.~~

Sec. 2. Section 81-3606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-3606. There is hereby created the Rural Development Cash Fund which shall be used by the Rural Development Commission for the purposes of sections 81-3601 to 81-3605. Money credited to the fund shall include any monetary gifts, grants, and donations, proceeds from contracts for services, and reimbursements of expenses. Any grant funds under the National Rural Development Partnership received by the State of Nebraska from the United States Department of Agriculture shall be allocated to the commission. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 3. Sections 81-3601 to 81-3609, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are revived.

Sec. 4. Original sections 81-3602 and 81-3606, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.